

Tips for Parents

- Keep the lines of communication open with your teen.
- Educate yourself about current technologies.
- Discuss the serious consequences of taking lewd and obscene photographs.
- Don't lecture, but discuss appropriate cell phone and online usage.
- Be clear about your expectations for appropriate online conduct.
- Talk about the consequences of failing to meet your expectations.
- Report any sexually explicit images to law enforcement.



Think about it . . .

It may end up



defining who YOU ARE.

Resources

Montgomery County Public Schools
301.279.3669
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cybersafety

NetSmartz Workshop
www.netsmartz.org

CyberTipline 1.800.843-5678

Montgomery County Police Department
Family Crimes Division 240.773.5400
Non-Emergency 301.279.8000
Emergency 911

Source: The National Campaign to
Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy



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240.773.5400
www.montgomerycountymd.gov
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RU SEX -ING?

embarrassment
guilt remorse
regret humiliation



What is sexting?

“Sexting” is the sending of sexually explicit photographs, videos or sexual text messages to another. These images are usually sent or exchanged between cell phones; however they can also be transmitted from or to any other electronic device.

Who is sexting?

- 71% of girls and 67% of boys have sent sexually suggestive content to a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- 39% of teens have sent or posted sexually explicit messages.
- 22% of teen girls and 18% of teen boys have sent or posted nude or semi-nude pictures or videos of themselves.
- 21% of girls and 39% of boys have sent such content to someone they wanted to date.
- 15% of teens have sent sexually explicit images to someone they only know online and have never met.

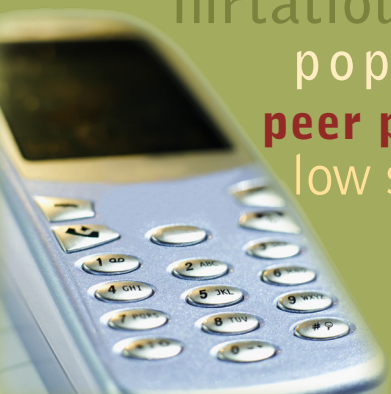
Why do teens sext?

flirtatious joke
popular

peer pressure

low self-esteem

in response
to a message
or image



What's the big deal?

It's wrong.

- The pictures are seen first by your immediate circle of friends; they send it to their friends – who send it to their friends – who send it to . . . you get the idea.
- Once the “send” button is hit, you lose control of your image forever.
- Your image is collected, traded, sold, manipulated and posted by sexual predators.
- **Your image is out of your control and on the Internet FOREVER. It CANNOT be removed and there is NOTHING you can do about it.**

Are there laws against sexting?

Those engaged in sexting may be committing the following crimes:

Manufacture of Child Pornography

Taking sexually explicit photographs of yourself or anyone under the age of 18.

Possession of Child Pornography

Possessing sexually explicit images.

Distribution of Child Pornography

Sending sexually explicit images of a minor.

Misuse of Electronic Mail

Electronic transmission of inappropriate images and/or text.

Harassment

A pattern of behavior intended to harass or annoy another.



What are the consequences?

- Arrest
- Suspension from school
- Denied participation in extracurricular activities
- Denied college admission
- Denied employment
- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Becoming more vulnerable to sexual predators
- The recipient is likely to expect you to participate in sexual activity

What can I do about it?

CONSIDER whether I want these pictures to be viewed by anyone.

THINK about all of the consequences before you take, send or forward any sexually inappropriate image.

TALK to a guidance counselor, teacher, mentor, parent or other trusted adult if you are engaging in this behavior or are concerned about a friend.

REPORT any images you receive to a trusted adult.



deceit
disrespect
sorrow
resentment